

## What is Affirmative Procurement?

Affirmative procurement (AP) is the purchase of environmentally preferable products manufactured from **recycled and reclaimed materials**. These products are identified by EPA in their Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) and are known as "Guideline Items." There are currently 54 designated Guideline Items grouped into eight categories.

Executive Order (EO) 12873 drove the AP program until **EO 13101** was signed on 14 Sep 1998. The original intent of AP was to "close the recycling loop" by buying products made with recycled materials. EO 13101 broadens this concept to include environmentally preferable purchasing in general. As a result, Federal AP programs must now expand to include the purchase of **biobased products**.

Biobased products are commercial or industrial products, other than food or feed, that utilize biological products or renewable domestic agricultural or forestry materials. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has responsibility for this part of the program. Under EO 13101, USDA must develop and publish the initial biobased product list. USDA is expected to include products previously promoted by their Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation (AARCC) on their initial product list.

## What is required for an Air Force affirmative procurement program?

Since EO 13101 takes its legal authority from the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Section 6002, AP requirements follow the RCRA requirements. We must have:

- a **preference program**, where the base formally establishes its preference to buy recycled-content products;
- a **promotion program**, in which we educate base personnel and actively promote the AP program;
- procedures for **vendor estimates, certifications and verification** – accomplished through contract clauses;
- an **annual monitoring and review** program.

More specific program requirements are spelled out in these references:

- 40 CFR 247
- EPA Recovered Material Advisory Notices (RMAN) – companion documents to the CPG
- Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 23
- Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7080
- AF Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) 00-1, "EPA Guideline Items in Construction and Other Civil Engineering Specifications"

# AFFIRMATIVE PROCUREMENT



**Environmentally  
Friendly  
Purchasing for  
the U.S. Air Force**

The Air Force "Guide to Green Purchasing" was originally published in 1999 and most recently updated in May 2001. The Guide is a supplement to the policy in AFI 32-7080. It describes program requirements and gives ideas for operating a base level affirmative procurement program. Download the Guide and other references from AFCEE's website at the address below.

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## ***INTERNET RESOURCES***

EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) and Recovered Material Advisory Notices (RMAN):

**<http://www.epa.gov/cpg/backgmd.htm>**

EPA CPG Product Information and Fact Sheets: Specific information about CPG categories and products

**<http://www.epa.gov/cpg/factshts.htm>**

USDA biobased industrial products web site: An electronic source book for biobased product information

**<http://www.usda-biobasedproducts.net/public/>**

AFCEE Affirmative Procurement Web Page: AF guidance and links to additional resources on the Web

**<http://www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/eq/ap/ap.htm>**

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## ***USAF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTACTS***

For technical assistance with affirmative procurement:

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For policy assistance with affirmative procurement:

**Contact your MAJCOM solid waste and recycling manager**



**Does the affirmative  
procurement  
program make you  
feel like this?**

**Here are some  
resources that may  
help you.**